

Three teachers protest proposed Tulare Adult School budget cuts

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Three teachers protested proposed Tulare Adult School budget cuts outside the Tulare high school district office before a special board meeting this week.

The Tulare Joint Union High School District is proposing more than \$1 million in cuts to the Tulare Adult School. Trustees already have approved more than \$300,000 worth of cuts.

No action was taken on the cuts Tuesday. The item is on the agenda for today's 7:30 p.m. school district board meeting.

Cuts still on the table include:

- Releasing all part-time certificated staff, which would save \$500,000.
- Eliminating evening supervision, which would save \$12,400.
- Eliminating one office clerk position, which would save \$43,500.
- Closing the welding program, which would save \$120,500. Tulare Adult School teachers Rosalyn Conwell and Brian Kelley and Tulare Western High School librarian Jerry Asher protested Tuesday. Kelley and Conwell teach the Adult School's diploma program, which, according to school district officials, would be maintained. "We are very supportive of one another and what we do," Kelley said. Superintendent Howard Berger, speaking after Tuesday's meeting, said he recognizes the employees' concerns. "It's the same concern we all have," Berger said. "Reductions in state funding are causing all school districts to make cuts." Every adult school program serves an important role in the community, the protesting teachers said. "For the unskilled worker trying to put food on the table, where else can they go [for training]?" Conwell asked. "There isn't a place." The adult school's

budget is \$2.8 million. "A big cut really can decimate a program quickly," Kelley said.

How to attend

- What: Tulare Joint Union High School District board of trustees meeting
- When: 7:30 p.m. today
- Where: 426 North Blackstone St.

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